

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
NSC-05 /054 W
-----043193 020917Z /20
P 020826Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0088

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, JA
SUBJECT: AIDE MEMOIRE FROM MOFA CRITICIZING LACK OF
SERVICE BY PANAM ON OSAKA-HONOLULU ROUTE

REF: (A) TOKYO 12476, (B) STATE 172454

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY WAS GIVEN AIDE MEMOIRE BY MOFA WHICH OUTLINES GOJ DISPLEASURE WITH PAN AMERICAN AIRLINES FOR NOT BEGINNING SERVICE ON HONOLULY-OSAKA-HONOLULU ROUTE AUTHORIZED BY JCAB JULY 7 (ALTHOUGH EFFECTIVE JULY 5). MOFA SAID JCAB CONCERNED ABOUT LOSS OF CREDIBILITY. EMBASSY BELIEVES WRITTEN RESPONSE ENCLOSING PAN AM EXPLANATION AND EXPRESSING REGRET FOR INCONVENIENCES CAUSED BY DELAY IN SERVICE WOULD SATISFY JCAB. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN GIVEN FOLLOWING AIDE MEMOIRE BY K. WATANABE, DIRECTOR, FIRST NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION, FOREIGN MINISTRY (MOFA).

3. BEGIN TEXT: "WITH REGARD TO THE APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF BUSINESS PROGRAM FROM PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS PERTAINING TO THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW SERVICE BETWEEN HONOLULY AND OSAKA TO BE EFFECTIVE UPON JULY 5, 1978,
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WHICH WAS AUTHORIZED BY THE PERMIT OF MINISTER OF TRANSPORT DATED JULY 1, 1978, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WISHES TO INFORM THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE VIEWS OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AS FOLLOWS:

"1. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE ACCOMODATION OF PAN AMERICAN'S PROPOSED CHANGE WAS A RESULT OF SPECIAL EFFORTS

BY THE JAPANESE SIDE TO CONVINCE THE ASSOCIATIONS OF THE RESIDENTS LIVING IN THE VICINITY OF OSAKA AIRPORT WHO OPPOSED STRONGLY TO SUCH AN INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW SERVICE ON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUNDS. THE JAPANESE SIDE CONDUCTED THESE EFFORTS WITH A VIEW TO MAINTAINING A HARMONIOUS AND PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE MUTUALLY CONFIRMED AS DESIRABLE AT THE CLOSE OF THE LAST TALKS IN WASHINGTON.

"HOWEVER, WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTUAL OPERATIONS OF THE AUTHORIZED SCHEDULE BY PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS, THE AIRLINES HAS FILED AN APPLICATION TO CANCEL ALL SERVICES DURING JULY AND THE MOST OF THE SERVICES DURING AUGUST AS WELL. IN ADDITION, OF THOSE FLIGHTS WHICH WERE NOT CANCELLED, THE SUBSTITUTION OF EQUIPMENT AND CHANGE OF TIME SCHEDULE WERE FILED BY PAN AMERICAN.

"2. THE JAPANESE SIDE REGRETS THAT PAN AMERICAN HAS NEVER GIVEN CONVINCING EXPLANATIONS FOR SUCH CANCELLATIONS. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE NO DEFECT IN THE FILING PROCEDURE OF THOSE CANCELLATIONS, SUCH BUSINESS PRACTICE WOULD NOT ONLY UNDERMINE THE EFFORTS AND CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT OF THE JAPANESE SIDE FOR ACCOMMODATING PAN AMERICAN'S APPLICATION, BUT WOULD ALSO GIVE RISE TO FURTHER DIFFICULTIES RELATING TO FUTURE PROBLEMS IN THE VICINITY OF OSAKA AIRPORT.

"THE JAPANESE SIDE BELIEVES, FURTHER, THAT RESPONSIBLE AIRLINES SHOULD NOT REPEAT SUCH IRREGULAR PRACTICE IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIGHT OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE FOR SCHEDULED AIR TRANSPORTATION TO PLAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUTHORIZED BUSINESS PROGRAM FOR THE PUBLIC CONVENIENCE.

"3. ACCORDINGLY, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO INVITE THE ATTENTION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO THIS MATTER AND REQUESTS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO GIVE THE AIRLINE CONCERNED APPROPRIATE GUIDANCES AND TO PROVIDE WHATEVER EXPLANATION THE AIRLINES MAY BE WILLING TO PRESENT IN THE LIGHT OF DIFFICULT SITUATIONS FACING JAPANESE AIRPORTS.

"TOKYO, AUGUST 1, 1978" END TEXT.

4. WATANABE TOLD EMBOFF THAT JCAB DIRECTOR YAMADA PERSONALLY WENT TO OSAKA IN JUNE TO CONVINCE AUTHORITIES AND RESIDENT ORGANIZATION LEADERS OF OSAKA TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL PAN AM FLIGHTS. "NOW," HE SAID, "PAN AM CANCELLED MOST OF THEIR FLIGHTS IN JULY AND PLANS ON DOING THE SAME FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER. MR. YAMADA'S CREDIBILITY IS IN JEOPARDY. HE BILLED THESE FLIGHTS AS BEING VERY IMPORTANT AND PAN AM HAS NOT COMPLIED." THE JCAB, HE NOTED, WILL NOT PERMIT THIS TO HAPPEN AGAIN.

WATANABE SAID THE GOJ IS REQUESTING A RESPONSE THROUGH THE EMBASSY EXPLAINING PAN AM'S FAILURE TO ACT. OTHERWISE, HE INDICATED, THE GOJ "CAN ONLY INTERPRET PAN AM'S MOVE AS BEING MADE TO PROVE THEY HAD THE RIGHT TO FLY THE OSAKA-HONOLULU ROUTE WITHOUT AN INTENT TO IMPLEMENT THE SERVICE."

5. EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED ABOVE WITH PAN AM MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR JAPAN, RUSH CLARK. HE IS AWARE OF JCAB CHAGRIN (REFTEL A), BUT SAID PAN AM WAS IN NO POSITION TO RUN DAILY FLIGHTS BECAUSE THERE ARE NO PASSENGERS.

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NSC-05 /054 W

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P 020826Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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6. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES A NOTE FROM US IS NEEDED, PERHAPS ENCLOSING A LETTER FROM PAN AM, OUTLINING PAN AM'S REASONS FOR DELAYING SERVICE, EXPRESSING REGRET FOR ANY INCONVENIENCES AND APPRECIATION FOR EFFORTS OF JCAB AND ITS STAFF. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS APPROACH WOULD HELP RESTORE JCAB'S CREDIBILITY IN OSAKA AND SUFFICE TO SOOTHE EGOS INVOLVED. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIDE MEMOIRE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO13933
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780315-1202
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808105/aaaadkdj.tel
Line Count: 158
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9a2c0358-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TOKYO 12476, 78 STATE 172454
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1555040
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIDE MEMOIRE FROM MOFA CRITICIZING LACK OF SERVICE BY PANAM ON OSAKA-HONOLULU ROUTE
TAGS: EAIR, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9a2c0358-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014